UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD FUEL SPILL INCIDENT

CONTACT: Alexia Retallack DATE: March 7, 1997

or Dana Michaels

Incident Command Post

(916) 216-1301

UNION PACIFIC SPILL MOVES INTO LONG RANGE CLEANUP PLANNING

LAKE VAN NORDEN—Union Pacific Railroad, Department of Fish and Game, and Nevada County Environmental Health are working on long range cleanup plans for the petroleum spill near Lake Van Norden. Union Pacific Railroad has brought in its Environmental Group to assist with the planning. Containment and cleanup efforts continue at the fuel spill that occurred on February 26, 1997 in the Donner Pass area.

Two trenches have been excavated and some free product has been collected. The trenches collect snow melt, and free product is removed through absorbent boom. Rail cars removed soil from the site for testing in Truckee. The train cars were lined and covered to prevent any material from escaping. Soil transportation and disposal issues are being addressed.

Soil sampling continues to provide information that will be used to prepare soil removal plans. Surface water sampling below the spill site is ongoing and will continue until the response effort is complete. Union Pacific Railroad, the California Department of Fish and Game, and Nevada County Environmental Health have plans in place for water and soil testing and monitoring.

The diesel leaked from a fuel line used for transferring fuel from a tank car to a storage tank. The fuel is used for snow removal equipment.

###

DFG UP NCEH